

INDIANA 2009-2010 Waterfowl Seasons and Regulations

Don't Forget
HIP
Registration

DNR
INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



**Division of
Fish and Wildlife**
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This summary of waterfowl hunting regulations is designed as a service to hunters and is not intended to be a complete digest of all hunting regulations. For specific details, consult the current issue of the code of federal regulations as published in the Federal Register (Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 20 and 21). These dates are subject to approval by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. As of this printing (Aug. 2009), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not approved these dates. The federal agency will review these dates by late September. Contact the Indiana DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife for information.

This program receives federal aid in wildlife restoration. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility or if you desire further information, please write to: Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Species	Season Dates	
Canada Geese		
North Zone	Oct. 17 – 18	Nov. 7 – Jan. 17
South Zone	Oct. 24 – Nov. 1	Nov. 25 – Jan. 28
Ohio River Zone	Oct. 31 – Nov. 1	Nov. 21 – Jan. 31
Brant, Light Geese	Oct. 17 – Jan. 29	
White-fronted Geese	Nov. 7 – Jan. 31	
Ducks, Coots, Mergansers		
North Zone:	Oct. 17 – Dec. 15	
South Zone:	Oct. 24 – Nov. 1	Nov. 25 – Jan. 14
Ohio River Zone:	Oct. 31 – Nov. 1	Nov. 28 – Jan. 24
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekends		
North Zone:	Oct. 10 – 11	
South Zone:	Oct. 17 – 18	
Ohio River Zone:	Oct. 24 – 25	
Late Canada Goose Zone Season	Feb. 1-15. See Zones on p. 2 for counties.	

Daily Bag and Possession Limits

Ducks

The daily bag limit for ducks is six. This includes any combination of goldeneyes, ruddy ducks, ring-necked ducks, buffleheads, gadwalls, long-tailed ducks, scoters, teal, wigeon and shovelers. Included in the daily limit of six are additional restrictions on the following:

Mallards	4
(not more than two females)	
Wood ducks	3
Redheads	2
Scaup	2
Canvasback	1
Black ducks	1
Pintails	1
Mottled ducks	1

Geese

The daily bag limit for geese and brant are:

Canada geese	2
White-fronted geese	1
Brant	1
Snow geese	20

Coots

The daily bag limit for coots is 15.

Mergansers

The daily bag limit for mergansers (which is separate from the duck limit) is five, including not more than two hooded mergansers.

Possession Limits

The possession limit for ducks, coots and mergansers is two times the daily bag limit.

The possession limit for Canada geese, white-fronted geese and brant is two times the daily limit. There is no possession limit for snow geese.

ONLINE
HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES
IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov

2009-2010 Indiana Waterfowl Seasons

Ducks

Waterfowl breeding habitat is wetter in much of prairie Canada, and much wetter in the U.S. prairies, than last year. Production this year is expected to be good throughout most of the prairies and good in the northern Canadian parklands. Habitat conditions in eastern Canada are also good.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the mallard breeding population at 8.5 million, 10% more than last year and 13% over the long-term average. Estimates of most species increased, with redhead, black duck, and wigeon numbers remaining stable. Scaup increased by 12% over last year, and have increased by 28% since 2006. Canvasbacks increased by 35%, prompting USFWS to re-open the canvasback season.

Geese

A very late spring affected nesting for both long-distance migrant populations that use Indiana. The Mississippi Valley Population (MVP) likely experienced little production this year, but is still at about average population levels. Moderate to poor production is expected from the Southern James Bay Population of Canada geese this year, but these geese likely did better than the MVP. The Mississippi Flyway giant population remained stable this year. Overall breeding conditions in the Flyway were good, and conditions within Indiana for breeding geese seemed to be better than the past two years.

Late Canada Goose Zone Season

Indiana is offering a late season for Canada geese in 2009-10. This late season targets urban geese that are forced out of towns and cities to feed as the weather gets colder. The season runs from Feb. 1-15, 2010, in the counties listed to the right.

The following special rules apply:

- ♦ The bag limit is five Canada geese per day (possession limit 10).
- ♦ Hunting hours, regulations and license requirements are the same as for the regular season. Shooting times may vary at some DNR properties. Check property regulations before hunting.
- ♦ Hunters also must have a special free permit to participate. These permits will be available beginning in December at FWA and Reservoir offices and via the Internet. More details on the free permit will be available later this winter.
- ♦ Hunters must return the survey attached to the permit. Failure to return the survey will make hunters ineligible for participation in the late season next year.
- ♦ All birds harvested during this special season must be checked at a state goose check station. Check station locations and hours will be sent to participants with their permit, and also are available at wildlife.IN.gov.

For more information on how to participate, visit wildlife.IN.gov or call (812) 334-1137.

Snow Goose Conservation Order

During the last 30 years, the populations of snow and Ross' geese have nearly quadrupled, resulting in severe degradation of their breeding grounds. In an effort to limit the numbers of these geese, snow geese (both blue and white phases) and Ross' geese may be taken from Feb. 1 - March 31, 2010, except in the Late Canada Goose Zone, where the Conservation Order is open Feb. 16 - March 31. This is in addition to the regular season for snow geese.

The following special rules apply:

- ♦ Hunting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half

hour after sunset. Shooting hours may vary at some DNR properties. Check property regulations before hunting.

- ♦ A free special Conservation Order permit is required (available online or at Fish and Wildlife offices and Reservoir offices after Jan. 1).
- ♦ The shell capacity limit rule and the use of electronic calling devices restrictions do not apply.
- ♦ There is no daily bag or possession limit.
- ♦ A HIP registration number is not required, nor is a Federal duck stamp.
- ♦ For information on how to participate, visit wildlife.IN.gov or call (812) 334-1137.

Zones

North Zone

That part of Indiana north of a line extending east from the Illinois state line along SR 18 to US 31; north along US 31 to US 24; east on US 24 to Huntington; and southeast on US 224 to the Ohio state line.

South Zone

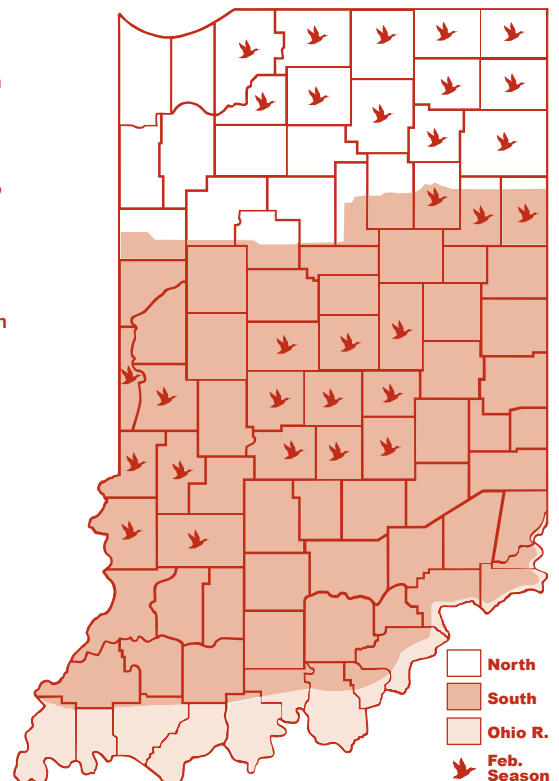
That portion of the state south of the North Zone boundary and north of the Ohio River Zone.

Ohio River Zone

That portion of the state south of a line extending east from the Illinois state line along I-64 to New Albany; east on SR 62 to SR 56; east on SR 56 to Vevay; along east and north SR 156 along the Ohio River to North Landing; north on SR 56 to US 50; and northeast on US 50 to the Ohio state line.

February Canada goose season counties:

Steuben
LaGrange
Elkhart
St. Joseph
LaPorte
Starke
Marshall
Kosciusko
Noble
DeKalb
Allen
Whitley
Huntington
Wells
Adams
Boone
Hamilton
Madison
Hendricks
Marion
Hancock
Morgan
Johnson
Shelby
Vermillion
Parke
Vigo
Clay
Sullivan
Greene



Regulations

Youth Waterfowl Hunting Weekends

Three weekends (one in each zone, see page 1 for dates) are set outside the regular hunting-season dates to provide a quality hunting experience for young hunters.

Hunters must be 15 years of age or younger and properly licensed to participate, and must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age. An adult may accompany more than one youth. The licensed accompanying adult may hunt only snow geese, brants, and white-fronted geese (if those species are in season). If the accompanying adult does not intend to hunt and does not possess a firearm, the adult does not need to be licensed. Bag and species limits are the same as those allowed in the regular season.

License and Stamp Requirements

Anyone hunting migratory game birds (ducks, coots, geese, mergansers, doves, snipe, sora rails or woodcock) must have an Indiana hunting license and a HIP registration number. An Indiana waterfowl stamp privilege, purchased through a local retailer, is also required for hunting ducks and geese. The waterfowl stamp privilege is covered under the youth license. There must be an original signature, in ink, on the license on which the stamp privilege is issued. Commemorative (traditional) waterfowl stamps do not convey hunting privileges. Additionally, anyone 16 years old or older must have a signed federal duck stamp when hunting ducks and geese. Landowners or lessees, hunting on farmed land they own or lease, must obtain a HIP registration number and have a federal duck stamp when hunting waterfowl.

For a list of Indiana Outdoor license retailer locations, or to purchase licenses and stamp privileges online, go to IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov. For more information, call the Indiana DNR Customer Service Center at (317) 232-4200. You can order federal duck stamps by calling 1-800-782-6724 or by going to www.fws.gov/duckstamps.

Harvest Information Program (HIP)

Licensed hunters in Indiana must register each year with the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) before they hunt ducks, geese, mergansers, coots, doves, snipes, sora rails or woodcocks.

In order to register, hunters must visit wildlife.IN.gov and click on "HIP Registration" or call 1-866-671-4499 and provide the information requested. The average time it takes to register is less than five minutes. At the end of the registration, the hunter is given a validation number to record on his or her license. This number is valid from the date of registration through the close of the last migratory bird hunting season. Lifetime license holders and persons on military leave must also register with HIP. Resident landowners and tenants who hunt on their own land also must register with HIP.

Hunters need only to register once each season in each state in which they hunt, not each time they hunt. In addition to providing name and address during the call, hunters are asked questions designed to identify which species they hunted last year and, in some cases, the number of birds they harvested.

HIP is a joint effort between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state wildlife agencies. The program improves harvest estimates for migratory game birds nationwide. Once the harvest information is gathered, the information is used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the states to ensure that decisions regarding hunting seasons are soundly based on scientific evidence.

Shell Capacity Limit

It is illegal to hunt migratory birds (ducks, geese, coots, mergansers, doves, woodcock, sora rails or snipe) with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler that cannot be removed without disassembling the gun. It is illegal to use a shotgun larger than 10 gauge.

Shooting Hours

Shooting hours for geese and ducks are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Shooting hours may vary at some DNR properties. Check property regulations before hunting.

Non-toxic Shot Requirements

Hunters are required to use approved non-toxic shot while hunting all waterfowl. As of this printing, non-toxic shots currently approved for use by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are bismuth-tin, tungsten-iron (two types), tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-tin-iron-nickel, tungsten-nickel-iron, tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-tin-iron and steel shot. Copper-plated, zinc chromate-plated, zinc chloride-plated and nickel-plated steel shot is approved as long as the plating represents less than one percent of the shot's weight. Lead shot plated with copper, nickel or other material does not qualify. It is illegal to possess shells loaded with anything other than approved non-toxic shot while hunting ducks, geese and coots anywhere in the state. Additional shot restrictions may be in place at select state Fish and Wildlife areas. For details, check with the property where you plan to hunt.

Hunting from a Boat

Migratory game birds may be hunted from a motorboat provided it is beached, resting at anchor, tied to a stationary object, or without motion other than that imparted by wind and current acting upon the hull, or due to hand-operated oars or paddles.

Identification Requirements

While in the field or traveling from the field to your home, migratory game birds in your possession must have one fully feathered wing or head attached to the carcass for identification purposes.

Hunting on State Properties

Be sure to check at area headquarters concerning open hunting areas and other special regulations that are in effect on all Fish and Wildlife areas and Reservoirs.

Regulations (cont.)

Reserved waterfowl hunts will be held at Goose Pond, LaSalle, Willow Slough, Kingsbury, and Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife areas, and Brookville and Monroe lakes.

Applications will be accepted online only Sept. 1 through Sept. 30 for reserved hunts at all properties. You may apply for reserved waterfowl hunts online at IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov starting Sept 1.

Wanton Waste

All migratory game birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field. You may retrieve dead or injured birds by hand or from a motorboat under power, but crippled birds may not be shot from a boat under power or in motion due to motor power.

Tagging Requirements

No person shall give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

- ♦ The hunter's signature
- ♦ The hunter's address
- ♦ The total number of birds involved by species
- ♦ The dates such birds were killed

No person or business shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Restrictions

No person shall take migratory game birds:

- ♦ With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- ♦ From a sink box (a low, floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- ♦ From or with the aid or use of a car or other motor-driven land conveyance, or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- ♦ By the use or aid of live decoys. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- ♦ By driving, rallying or chasing birds with any motorized conveyance or any sail boat to put them in the range of the hunters.
- ♦ By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, if the person knows or reasonably should know that the area is baited. Baiting includes the placing of corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed to serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. It is a separate offense to place or direct placement of bait on or adjacent to an area for the purpose of causing or allowing hunters to take or attempt to take birds by the aid of bait or over a baited area. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. The maximum federal penalties

are: for hunting over bait: \$15,000/six months jail; placing bait: \$100,000/one year jail.

- ♦ With a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells.
- ♦ By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

Ohio River Regulations

Indiana waterfowlers may hunt the main stem of the Ohio River (excluding islands and Kentucky embayments and shoreline) with either an Indiana or Kentucky license and appropriate stamps whenever the waterfowl season is open in either state.

Shipping Migratory Birds

No person shall ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: (a) the name and address of the person sending the birds, (b) the name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent, and (c) the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Report Bird Bands

All waterfowl hunters are urged to report bird bands online or at the toll-free number below. During the hunting season, operators are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Band information is critical to the management of waterfowl populations and assists biologists in providing optimum hunting opportunities.

1-800-327-BAND or www.reportband.gov

Report any geese that you harvest or see with orange or white plastic leg bands to the same number as above, or to any Fish and Wildlife area. These birds were moved from urban areas to Indiana Fish and Wildlife areas. Reporting these bands helps us determine what happens to these birds after they are moved.



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